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Navy Task Force Submits Career Improvement Ideas

A Navy Retention Task Force has submitted some 80 recommendations for making service careers more attractive to Navy personnel and their dependents.

Recommendations ranged from seeking increased sea pay for both officer and enlisted based on cumulative years at sea, to providing dental care as an additional fringe benefit through a Dental Care Act.

Major study factors included maximum use of manpower while considering individual needs and desires; reduction in long family separations; improved shipboard and shore living conditions; and greater educational opportunity.

Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze directed formation of the task force in 1964 under general supervision of Chief of Naval Personnel VAdm. Benedict J. Semmes. RAdm. John M. Alford served as task force director.

Secretary Nitze said the force had developed a lengthy series of improvement measures designed to make career service more attractive. He said, however, the study cannot be considered a panacea for Navy's reenlistment problems.

Knowledge gained by the task force, he said, will serve as a platform from which the programs can be launched.

U.S., United Kingdom Agree To Joint Satellite Project

An agreement has been signed by the United States and United Kingdom, providing participation by the U.K. in research and development associated with the U.S. Initial Defense Communications Satellite Project.

The "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and U.K. Minister of Defense Denis Healey, as part of a continuing program of joint cooperation on matters of mutual defense and space research.

The U.S. project provides for establishment of a space system of up to 22 communication satellites in near-synchronous, equatorial orbits. The launches are planned for this year.

Under terms of the memorandum, the U.K. will provide several ground terminals for communication tests and experiments, using the U.S. Defense Department communications satellites.

ARMY SAFETY AWARD—Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor (right) accepts the National Safety Council Award of Honor from former Arizona Gov. Howard Pyle, Council President. The award was presented to U.S. Army for an outstanding safety performance for FY65 and is Army's 18th award for worldwide performance.

Atlantic Fleet Ready For Apollo Mission

U.S. Atlantic Fleet headquarters for Spacecraft Recovery has announced plans for participation in Project Apollo's AS-201 mission scheduled Feb. 22.

Task Force 140 will provide Atlantic Ocean location and recovery capabilities for the first Apollo mission, an unmanned ballistics shot, deploying along the ground-track from Cape Kennedy to a point southeast of Ascension Island.

Other units have been assigned to Task Force 140 for the mission. The Marine Corps will provide two amphibious tank retrievers with crews at the launch site for spacecraft pickup in case of an early abort.

Amphibious Force's Underwater Demolition Team 21 will provide swimmers at launch site and aboard the USS Boxer, from which they will deploy to install a flotation collar on the spacecraft after splashdown.

Washington Memos

THE SENATE HAS unanimously passed the "Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966." A change by the Senate, and accepted by the House, gives assurance that veterans who have not graduated from high school would be eligible for the education benefits.

WWII GI BILL was responsible for the training of 18,000 doctors and registered nurses, 113,000 physical and research scientists, 450,000 civil engineers, 36,000 clergymen, and 711,000 skilled mechanics. Prior to the enactment of the original WWII benefit program the educational level of the average head of household was less than nine years. Since that time it has risen to 10.4 years.

INDIVIDUALS SERVING A two-year draft obligation or two-year enlistments should consider taking a short-discharge to reenlist for a longer period in order to obtain maximum entitlements under the proposed GI Bill for veterans. A service member must have completed at least 181 days before discharge in order to be entitled to any benefits under the proposed law. Those remaining on active duty must complete two years active service in order to take advantage of the in-service entitlements. Educational assistance for veterans is based on one month of schooling for each month of service, for a maximum of 36 months.

AMERICANS HAVE DONATED more than 38,000 units of whole blood to support U.S. armed forces in Vietnam. Majority of donations—well over 30,000 units—have come from students in 145 colleges and universities. Colleges contributing more than 1,000 units include: Univ. of Illinois; Mississippi State Univ.; Univ. of Alabama; and Auburn Univ. Red Cross is handling the special blood collections at request of DOD.

COORDINATION AGREEMENT SIGNED by DOD and NASA to establish joint Manned Space Flight Policy Committee. Committee will determine top level policy for Manned Space Flight Programs, coordinate planning and resolve matters concerning mutual participation in such programs.

NAVY A-4 JET Skyhawk was hit by a SAM (Surface to Air Missile) about 28 miles southwest of Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam, Feb. 9. The pilot guided the plane out to sea, ejected and was recovered uninjured by helicopters.

"CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS," AN Armed Forces Information and Education film dedicated to instilling in U.S. servicemen a deeper appreciation of the means of safeguarding classified documents and a renewed determination to support those means fully, has been released to the services. Military commanders and instructors are urged to preview this film before any scheduled showing. By doing so, they will be prepared to answer questions and comments from viewers.

THREE NEW FEATURES are now appearing in the Army Information Digest on a rotating basis. "Loud and Clear!" appears in the February issue with messages and information to and for the troops. The other additions are: "Army Scene," about activities throughout the Army other than combat, and "Faces of Combat," a human interest series.

CERTAIN SOLDIERS MAY compete for USMA appointment. Requirements and application details are in AR 350-55.

FIRST MEETING OF the Working Group for nuclear planning of NATO's Special Committee of Defense Ministers will be held in Washington Feb. 17-18. Secretary of Defense McNamara will serve as chairman. Other defense ministers attending are: Kai-Uwe von Hassel, Germany; Guilio Andreotti, Italy; Ahmet Topaloglu, Turkey; and Denis Healey, United Kingdom. Secretary General of NATO, Manlio Brosio, will also attend.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS MADE by Navy's retention study group include raising family housing cost limitations, establishing cost-of-living allowances based on geographic costs, providing 25 percent of furniture for government quarters, and adopting tri-service criteria for bachelor housing.

NAVY'S STUDY RECOMMENDS looking into factors of the enlisted advancement system. Investigative areas include eligibility criteria on which CO's recommendations are made, the Enlisted Performance Evaluation Sheet, means for evaluating enlisted performance marks, and factors comprising the advancement multiple.

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE soldiers recently combined combat patrols with friendly visits to some 50 villages in the Pleiku-Kentum area. They completely refurbished two schools, provided medical treatment to some 5,000 people, rehabilitated a civilian hospital and contributed $600 from their pockets for the hospital's operating expense.

TRAINING OF RVN Air Force pilots by the USAF in RVN has ended. Henceforth, VNAF training will be conducted in the U.S. by USAF and in Vietnam by the VNAF itself. VNAF pilots started developing their own Skyraider training program in July 1964. First Air Commando Sqdn. and the 602nd Fighter Sqdn., units which have worked with the VNAF, will now devote full time effort to combat missions against the Viet Cong.

$60,000 WAS SAVED in 10 months through elimination of collar stands and back belts on food handlers' coats. This savings represents a cooperative effort by DSA's Defense Personnel Support Center and the Natick, Mass., Army Laboratories.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Army Revises Promotion Policy for Greater Latitude

Army has revised its enlisted promotion policy providing more uniform eligibility and selection criteria and greater latitude in promoting best qualified.

Overall provisions concern promotion authority, time in grade, promotable status, commander's evaluation and selection boards.

One significant provision specifies that promotions must be made to fill existing vacancies within a command, although a person need not be filling the vacancy. Once promoted, assignment to the vacancy is required.

Emphasis has been placed on physical condition and Promotion Qualification Scores (PQS) for E-5 promotion and higher. Requirements are a passing score on the appropriate physical test and a 110 or higher on the PQS. The latter does not apply to persons exempt from qualification testing. These provisions may be waived in some cases.

Additionally, an eighth grade education or equivalent is required for E-5 promotion, with high school or equivalent required for higher advancement. A waiver may be granted.

Restrictions still apply to E-7, E-8 and E-9 promotions regarding "replacement in grade" provisions. A vacancy may not be filled by promotion until a replacement in grade has been requisitioned and notification received that a replacement will not be furnished.

Reusable Space Craft Plan Under DOD Study

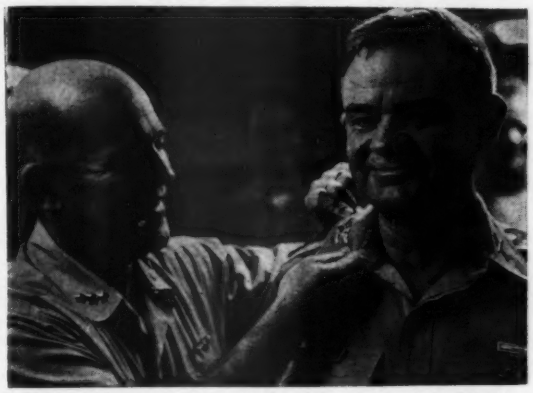
Department of Defense continues to work toward returning and reusing space vehicles since orbiting payloads may become more expensive.

An alternative would be to rendezvous with and resupply or repair the payload, if this should prove more economical.

In seeking new reusable vehicle concepts, Defense does not plan to restudy areas which have previously proved unproductive, said Director of Defense Research and Engineering John S. Foster Jr.

"We foresee an evolution of reentry spacecraft shapes which will provide greater flexibility of operations, enjoy higher reusability, and possess close to the same volumetric efficiency of current reentry spacecraft," he said.

Viewing a large investment to date in expendable launch facilities and vehicles, Mr. Foster said it is quite possible that defense's initial approach to reusability may involve only partial recovery of modified expendable vehicles and equipment.



NAVY "PROMOTES" ARMY—Col. Richard F. Wilkinson, USA, gets his insignia of rank from VAdm. John J. Hyland, Commander, Seventh Fleet, aboard guided missile light cruiser USS Oklahoma City (CLG-5) off Vietnamese coast. Col. Wilkinson has been Assistant Plans Officer on the admiral's staff for past 20 months.

Say F-5 'Outstanding' After Rugged Testing

A Northrop F-5 supersonic jet fighter aircraft has completed rigorous full-scale fatigue testing, withstanding loads equivalent to those met in 8,000 flight hours and 8,000 landings.

The 18-month test program was performed at Northrop Corp.'s Norair facilities, Hawthorne, Calif., under contract to the U.S. Air Force Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Northrop will supply more than 700 F-5 airplanes to nine allied nations. In addition, a special squadron of F-5s, called "Skoshi (Little) Tigers," has been undergoing rugged combat evaluation in the RVN.

The unusually detailed and comprehensive tests have proven the F-5 an exceptionally tough aircraft for low-level, close support missions.

Foreign Decoration Policy Guides Published by DOD

DOD has issued new directives furnishing policy guidance for acceptance of foreign awards by U.S. personnel in RVN and contiguous waters.

Certain service personnel are now authorized by Public Law 89-257 to accept and wear decorations awarded by the Republic, or by governments of other nations whose personnel are serving in RVN in the Republic's cause.

The new directives, numbered 1348.16 and 1005.3, are both dated Jan. 22, 1966. The first provides guidance for service secretaries in prescribing regulations while the second represents overall DOD policy.

New Attack Cargo Ship To Use Remote Control

Navy's Bureau of Ships has approved contract design for the first Navy ship to incorporate extensive automation features in its main propulsion plant control.

Control of the main engine of a new attack cargo ship can be shifted from the engine room to the wheel-house of the ship, eliminating the system of signaling orders from bridge to engine room. Instead, remotely operated steering machinery and a throttle on the bridge will be used for ship control.

Plans are presently under development to incorporate such automation features in the two guided missile destroyers planned for the FY67 Shipbuilding Program, the first use of the system in a twin screw warship.

Supply Center Has 34% Increase in '65

Oakland Naval Supply Center, Calif., received and issued more than one billion pounds of material during 1965, enough to fill 26,100 railroad box cars.

The sharp increase, 32 percent over 1964, was largely the result of stepped-up military needs in Southeast Asia. The figure does not include material shipped directly through the Bay Area Military Ocean Terminal or kept in storage at the Supply Center.

GOLD RUSH TOOL—Gen. Kenneth B. Hobson (right), Commander, USAF Logistics Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, hands over the Gold Rush shovel, symbol of AFLC's cost reduction program, to Col. Thomas L. Thacker, newly appointed Assistant Comptroller for Cost Reduction. A $1.388 billion cost reduction savings goal has been set for AFLC in FY66.

Fabric Supplied for Runways

More than 275,000 yards of a reinforced fabric, manufactured by the Facile Division of the Sun Chemical Corp., is being supplied to U.S. Navy for use in construction of runways and helicopter landing pads.

The fabric, called Facilon, is a lightweight weatherproof vinyl fabric reinforced with nylon and is particularly noted for its high strength, tear resistance and flexibility.

Five States, D.C. Added To IRS Refund Program

Internal Revenue Service has added five more states and District of Columbia to a program started last year speeding refunds to taxpayers.

Mid-Atlantic residents of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia, should mail returns to Internal Revenue Service, Philadelphia, Pa. 19154.

The program was begun in the southeastern region last year when automatic data processing equipment became operational. Plans are to extend the program throughout the United States.

Southeastern residents of Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee, expecting a refund, should mail their returns to IRS, Chamblee, Ga. 30005, as they did last year.

Experimental Truck Tested

Army Infantry Board, Ft. Benning, Ga., recently completed tests on an experimental ¼-ton cargo truck, the XM561, for the Infantry.

The six-wheel vehicle uses a new concept called an articulation joint. Similar to a universal joint, it connects the tractor to its carrier, permitting the carrier to pitch and roll independently. This allows all six wheels to stay on the ground over rough terrain, improving traction and stability.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RAdm. Francis Nuessle, USN, transferred to ComFltAir, Norfolk, Va. **Maj. Gen. Victor J. MacLaughlin, USA,** current Asst. Director, Plans, Programs and Systems for Defense Security Agency to become CG, Army QM Center, Ft. Lee, Va. Succeeding him is **Brig. Gen. Woodrow W. Vaughn, USA,** CG, Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass. **Brig. Gen. Harold M. Brown,** CG, Army Signal Center and Commandant Army Signal School, Ft. Monmouth, N. J., to take over as Deputy Chief, Communications-Electronics, DA, April 1. **Brig. Gen. John K. Boles, USA,** MACV Joint Research and Test Activity director, to become Deputy CG, Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., June 1.

CONTRACT AWARDS

The Bristol Manufacturing Corp., Bristol, R.I.: $1,047,253 contract for 321,490 pairs of men's high rubber overshoes. **(DSA)**

Kentucky Manufacturing Co., Louisville, Ky.: $2,540,979 firm fixed-price contract for 515 semi-trailers. **(Army)**

Todd Shipyards, Inc., San Pedro, Calif.: $1,780,873 for work on USS Hampshire County (LST-819). **(Navy)**

Sperry Rand Corp., Charlottesville, Va.: $5,595,960 definitive contract superseding a previously awarded letter contract for radar sets for C-141, HC-130H and WC-135 aircraft. **(Air Force)**